



THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER
Of



The 1773 - Colonial Virginia Copper Halfpenny

W. N. Veach
Founder/Editor

Date: 15 August 1990
Vol.-01, Issue-01

"Resolve to protect its
historic integrity and
to promote its welfare"

General Discussion

Welcome to the Generation's first civilized meeting of variety set collectors of the 1773 - Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny. It is the uniqueness of the 29 Newman variety sets that create such interesting and even mysterious identities for each.

In his 1956 Monograph, "Coinage For Colonial Virginia", Eric Newman establishes himself as the current authority on this subject. His diligent research in Colonial Virginian history, the details of all the difficulties that the Virginia Colonists had while corresponding with the Crown of England for permission to circulate copper coins in the Colonial Commonwealth, and their ultimate success just months before the magical American Revolution, were all graphically revealed.

Since the 1956 edition is out or print, and additional varieties appeared for recognition, Mr. Newman is preparing to publish a new edition concentrating on the importance of variety classification.

In this regard, and on his behalf, I request that you refer immediately to Mr. Newman or myself any "possible" new Obverse or Reverse varieties that you now possess. A photo of the same will be necessary for positive assessment. If a new variety comes to light, it should be included with all the others currently known - - so that we all may share that warm, fuzzy feeling of a new discovery.

A general bonding should occur among Generation members and this should give greater strength to a movement to establish Newman variety classifications as "the" standard for the recognition of the Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny in America.

Memberships

We now number: 9 in strength. Some of our members have been collecting Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies for only a short period while one member has been collecting them for 60 years. One of our members have chosen (for the time being) to remain anonymous.

While I've listed our current open membership, below, less the one anonymous member, I have additional feelers out to several prospects.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

FEATURE SUBJECT

Mutual interests held by most variety set oriented collectors ---

Why join a group like this? Because, - - - it's absolutely necessary in order to achieve the leverage needed to make up for time lost in past generations that have been oblivious to the very existence of these 217 year old coppers. We must regain the "advantage".

We need to regroup, to pool our knowledge, to expand our resource of technical references, and to promote an accurate and healthy image of the 1773 - Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny. We need to view more clearly the little mysteries that lurk in the shadowy background of their early procurement, production, and distribution.

We need to feel much more comfortable about the mintage levels of each variety set, the affect of the "Melting Pot" of 1789, and the net surviving specimens of each variety set.

We need to be able to evaluate approximate rarity by the mintage, melting pot, and survivor "numbers" in order to construct a meaningful valuation table for the values of each variety set, in relation to all the other sets.

Of course, I've skipped over at least one very important step, here. But, I'll save that jewel for next time.

Surely, each of you has found the need, if not the desire, to create some sort of rarity ranking of the many varieties that you've acquired: no period Obverses versus those with a period (after "S" in GEORGIVS). And within "no period" Obverse variety types, there are 3 major Reverse variety types, depending on the number of strings on the harp: 6, 7, and 8. Whereas, within "with period" Obverse variety types, there are only two major Reverse variety types, depending on the number of strings on the harp: 7 and 8. But which of these details is of primary importance with respect to rarity (hence: market value)? If we don't realize the significance of the variety differences, who would? Who does? Who ever did?

No one!!! The farther back in time we would go, from this day, back, there is a downward level of "awareness" of variety uniqueness of detail, to where - - - just 40 years ago there was little to none. The only notable exception was Eric Newman. Then, going all the way back to 1773, in England, where variety due to die variances was commonplace, no specific attention or notice was given, nor records kept of the level of production of each variety set. Mainly because each Obverse and Reverse had no separate identity then. They were all assumed to be nearly enough alike. No, we are the first to ever care to differentiate that the various die sets created unique individual coins and that these sets of an Obverse die with a specific Reverse die could mean that it is one of high rarity because of a "suspected" low mintage level due to die defect problems or rusting of dies in the warm damp London Tower Mint, in 1773.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

FEATURE SUBJECT, Cont'd ---

I hope that I have not frustrated you, but rather to have caught your interest and have shown you that there is a lot to do yet before any of us can claim to be "Masters of the Game".

One good note - - - we are in the lead pack, in the U.S. - - - in the race to know more about 1773 Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies. Everyone else (99.9%) is far back. They don't even know there is a race. This means that a number of important decisions (or precedents) may be established by us, for lack of a greater authority. True, we may make mistakes, but we will most likely "set the standard" by which all others who follow (later as beginner collectors) will obviously refer to as "Robert's Rules" to the classifying, buying and selling of Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies.

For now, we need most of all to have the benefit of our combined effort and individual determination to safeguard the welfare of these little coins, and our combined intellect to create a more fluid market place in which much easier access abounds.

After the second newsletter, I think you will feel that you are on much more solid ground. Trust me. We're getting there.

Any separate letters that you write to me are considered "Confidential" (that is just between us) unless you specify that a specific subject is for "General Consumption".

Start making notes of questions and ideas you may perceive while reading this newsletter. Keep them with it. Set up a file for this newsletter in a safe place.

Rest up for the next Generation Newsletter!!! Next time --- the Jewel:

the building blocks to a current valuation table --- from the ashes of time, a Phoenix arises.

It gets better.

sincerely,

William N. Veach
Founder/Editor